

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 23, 2013

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session, Monday, September 23, 2013 with Commissioners, Bruce Levi, Mark Bacon, Ken Masters, Jodi Harr, Deputy Auditor, and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance. MaryAnn Beard, Auditor, was absent.

Commissioner Bruce Levi called the meeting to order Ken Masters made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 9, 2013 as presented. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton had nothing to report.

CLERK/ELECTION BOARD

Rush County Clerk Debbie Richardson updated the commissioners on the contract signed with Eagle Accounts to clean up old child support accounts. They have collected over \$5,000 which has been receipted back into county general.

Richardson requested permission to re-precinct the City of Rushville. The election board would like to change the current six (6) precincts in the city to match the three (3) Rushville City Council District boundaries. This would save the county money by staffing three (3) precincts at the polls instead of six(6). If this change is made, the precincts will not match the Rush County School districts. She will contact the school administrators to work this out with them. Mark Bacon made the motion to sign the Order Re-precincting the City of Rushville which changes the number of voting precincts from six (6) to three (3). Ken Masters seconded. Motion carried.

EC/DC

ECDC Director John McCane asked the commissioners to sign a letter of support regarding the classification of Cherry Street extension to 200 N and the re-classification of CR 200 North. The letter is also requesting the reclassification of North Spencer Street. Highway Superintendent Jerry Sitton also submitted a letter of support for this project. Ken Masters made the motion to sign the letter of support. Mark Bacon seconded. Motion carried.

McCane also presented the commissioners with a list of projects currently being worked on by the ECDC office. He invited them to attend the ground breaking of the new Farm Credit Services Building on North Main Street. It will be held on October 2, 2013 at 11 a.m.

APC

Rushville City Mayor Mike Pavey was in attendance to discuss recent meetings with the new county Area Plan Director, Kevin Tolloty and Rush County Councilman Marvin Hedrick. They have discussed the needs of the city regarding planning and zoning. Mayor Pavey requested a commissioner to also attend these meetings. Commissioner Bacon is the commissioner appointment to the Area Plan Commission so he will attend the meetings.

APC Director Kevin Tolloty informed the commissioners that the APC will be hearing a petition by CPS in Homer requesting a rezone of their property. He would like to bring the APC's recommendation to the commissioners at their October 7 meeting. After discussion on the soonest date to hold the public hearing, County Attorney Leigh Morning advised Kevin to bring the recommendation to the October 7 meeting and the public hearing can be held after a ten (10) day public notice is published in the local newspaper by the county auditor. The public hearing will be held at the regular commissioner meeting on October 21.

Tolloty also requested permission to hire a temporary part time person to help with filing and other areas in his office through the end of the year. He does have money in his budget to cover the expense. The commissioners gave their approval with the understanding that he meet with Auditor MaryAnn Beard and Commissioner Bacon to work out the details.

COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE

Commissioner Bruce Levi asked Kristi Amos from the County Extension Office if they could offer any help in maintaining trees, flower pots and flower beds around the courthouse. Kristi will check with Will Schakel and the Master Gardeners to see what kind of assistance they can offer.

Commissioner Levi reported that he and Turnkey are still working on resolving the chiller issues. He has reviewed the Duke Energy bills and believes the increase in cost is due to weather related conditions.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Jeff Sherwood submitted his jail report. As of September 23th there are 37 inmates, 2 are sentenced, and 2 are Department of Correction prisoners. He is continuing to watch the gas prices at Harvest Land to hopefully lock in the lowest price for 2014.

Commissioner Levi informed Sherwood of a meeting being held with DLZ and County Councilman Marvin Hedrick on Wednesday of this week at noon. They will be discussing a feasibility study on building or renovating a new jail. He also invited Sherwood to attend.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Rush County Veterans Service Officer, Steven Land, requested by letter that the commissioners allow him convert his courthouse phone number to a cell phone and also to allow a wireless modem for his laptop. Commissioner Levi instructed Land to contact I.T. Director Randy Herbert to get this set up.

4 WAY PRODUCTION

Commissioner Mark Bacon reported that IDEM has approved the Confined Feeding Operation in Homer which is owned by 4 Way Production.

RAILS TO TRAILS

Commissioner Ken Masters presented a map of the proposed bike trail on State Road 44 West connecting Rushville with Homer and Manilla. There is forty-seven (47) acres consisting of twelve (12) miles to be considered. Commissioner Bruce Levi abstained from discussion due to a conflict of interest because of his Homer interest. The commissioners would need to take ownership of the abandoned railroad property. Rushville City Mayor Mike Pavey explained the origins of this idea and possible benefits of the trail. County Attorney, Leigh Morning, asked the commissioners to think about a few questions before making their decision. Who would be responsible for the upkeep of the trails? Are there clear titles to the property? Do you want to take the liability of the trails? She recommended they talk to the county's insurance carrier prior to making a decision. Commissioner Mark Bacon made the motion to table this project until further investigation can be done. Commissioner Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AUDITOR

- EMS run sheets: July report for Anderson Twp 10 runs.
- 2014 Courthouse Calendar: Motion by Commissioner Masters to approve the calendar as presented at the September 9 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Bacon. Motion carried.
- Copies of the 2014 Commissioner Budgets which have been approved by the County Council and have been sent to the State for their approval were given to each commissioner.
- Treasurer report for August 2013 was presented.

Claims for 9-4 to 9-17 were reviewed. Ken Masters moved to approve the claims and Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Payroll was approved on a motion by Mark Bacon. Ken Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was received from Ken Masters. Mark Bacon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/ Bruce Levi
Bruce Levi, Chairman

/s/ Mark Bacon
Mark Bacon

/s/ Ken Masters
Ken Masters

ATTEST:

/s/ Mary Ann Beard
Mary Ann Beard, Auditor